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MECHANICAL MEMORIES MAGAZINE

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*The only U.K. subscriber magazine
dedicated to vintage coin-operated amusement machines.*

Mechanical Memories Magazine

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Editorial

Hello again, and here it is at long last – issue 16. As the July issue didn't go in the post till August, it seemed only right that this should be late also! To be honest, the school holidays have really taken their toll this year. Perhaps I'm just getting old, but 12 hour days 7 days a week have proved a bit too much this time, and it has been extremely difficult to muster the energy and enthusiasm for the magazine; I really needed to put my feet up for a week.

The situation hasn't been helped by the printer acquiring a new machine to replace the one he normally uses for this magazine. For reasons totally beyond my comprehension, I now have to produce each page in A4 and save the entire magazine on disc as one document. The wondrous new machine then reduces everything to A5. Although this isn't rocket science, I could have done without having to reformat everything; change font sizes; adjust margins and columns etc. at this time. Anyway, I've no idea what the end result will look like – if it's crap, blame the new machine!

Many thanks to those who have made contributions for this issue (and a couple of articles I have 'in stock' for next month). I do appreciate your efforts, and it has certainly helped.

Now, I have an apology to make. Last month I reported that Ivan Farrow has two bagatelles from his collection on display at the House of Marbles, Devon. The number is actually seventy – yes seven zero. I really don't know how I got that wrong. After speaking to Ivan recently, I checked his original letter (just in case I was able to blame his appalling handwriting), but unfortunately, there was nothing wrong with Ivan's writing, it clearly said '70'. Anyway, this is a venue clearly worth a visit, and one which I hope to feature in the magazine sometime in the future.

And finally, a special thankyou to my wife Sharron. I desperately wanted to take a day off from Brighton during August, so that we could visit Carters' Steam fair at Battersea Park. Unfortunately, John Hayward was unable to cover for me on the days I wanted, which left only one day – Sharron's birthday. Anything 'steam' or 'slottie' would not be Sharron's ideal way of spending a birthday, so it was a most magnanimous gesture to allow me to 'drag' her up to Battersea Park in the afternoon. And all it cost me was an ice cream and a hamburger.....so far!

Till next time, all the best

Jerry

News and Coming Events

News from Cyprus

I heard from Maurice and Pat Felce a while back, who have now settled into their new home in their new country of residence. They are now legally registered 'aliens' and have even surrendered their UK driving licences for Cypriot ones, so I suppose there's no going back now, (or perhaps I should say coming back)! Temperatures are typically 32c during the day and 27c at night. I've no idea what that is in real money, but sounds too bloody hot! I'm told too, that they have had no rain since departing these shores on the 17th of May. That's hardly surprising really, I shouldn't think the rest of the world has had any rain either – we've had it all over here!

Maurice has got his priorities right and has already had a workshop built to enable him to start work on some of the projects he took with him. I'm hoping that in the coming months I may be able to feature some of his completed restorations, as he departed with a number of real treasures.

Anyway, it's good to hear Maurice and Pat have settled in and are enjoying their new life in Cyprus. I'm sure we'll be hearing more from them in the coming months.

New DVD

I understand from Darren that sales of his new DVD are going well, and I have received emails from a number of you saying how much you've enjoyed it. Although I sat up till two in the morning to watch it on the day my copy arrived, I haven't as yet had a chance to watch it again and 'take notes'! However, first impressions are good, and I'm sure everyone will value the opportunity to view collections that they may not otherwise have seen. Being a Southerner, I was particularly pleased to be able to see Chris Parcell's 'Old Penny Memories' at Bridlington; Clive Baker's machines at 'Bygone Times', and Darren's own collection at the Candle Workshops, Cheshire. I do hope to be able to visit all of these venues at some time in the future, but for the time being, it was good to be able to view them on-screen. If you haven't ordered a copy yet, full details are on page 25. And if you want to save on postage, I shall have a few available on Slotties' Day Out (see below).

Slotties' Day Out, Brighton Sat. 22nd September.

A repeat of last year's extravaganza at Mechanical Memories Museum! OK, so it's not so much an extravaganza, more an informal get-together. We all had a good time last year, and a number of you have already said you're looking forward to coming down this time. Unfortunately, because the magazine's late this month, by the time you all read this, it will probably be tomorrow! I just hope you all took a note of the date when I mentioned it in the last issue. Anyway, just turn up whenever it suits you; have a chat with whoever is there at that time; come and go as you please, and we'll all meet up at the end of the afternoon for a meal and a few beers.

The Great Allwin Challenge

I've decided that Slotties' Day Out will be an ideal opportunity to conduct the 'Great Allwin Challenge' as there will hopefully be a good number of us collectors, plus of course, no shortage of members of the public for the 'chance' test. You will remember that we had hoped to do this at the Sarratt auction, but there just wasn't time. Frankly, I can't see us ever having the time at future auctions, so this would seem to be the solution.

We will use a traditional fivewin galleried allwin, set on free play, and ask one hundred people to have just one go. This will be the 'chance test'. I will then play the machine one hundred times, in an attempt to develop a 'feel' for the machine, and thus increase my chances of winning. This will be the 'skill test'. The results of each game in both the chance and skill tests will be recorded by a volunteer (who is yet to be 'volunteered'), and analysed after the event. To avoid any accusations that I may have practised beforehand (although I'm not sure that has any relevance), I shall borrow a machine for this purpose, just for the day.....thanks in advance Charlie!

There is an urgent reason for conducting this allwin test, which I shall discuss next month, when (hopefully) we'll have the results of the challenge.

Jukebox Madness, Kempton Park Racecourse. Sat. 29th & Sun. 30th September.

Well, what can I say about Jukebox Madness that hasn't already been said. It's the largest show of it's kind in the UK, and whatever your interest, there's something here for everyone. Unfortunately, for reasons unknown to me, it's much earlier this year and it's unlikely I shall be able to make it this time. But I'm sure that as usual, it will be well worth a visit if you're able.

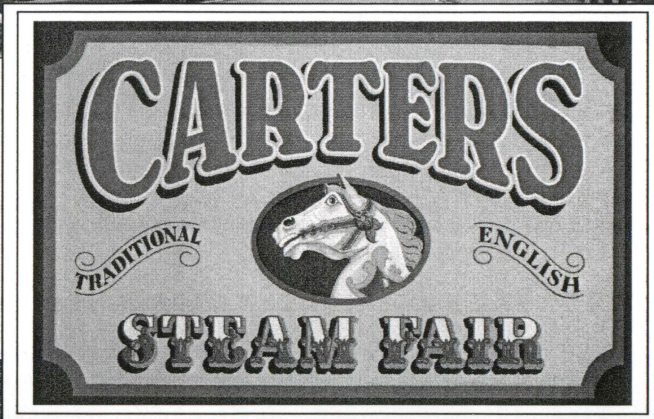
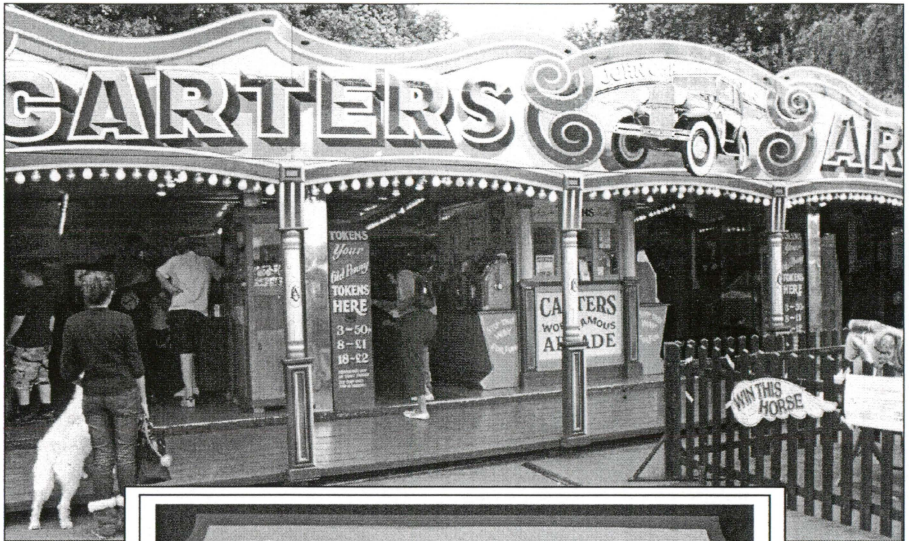
Central England Vintage Slot Collectors' Show and Auction. Sun. 25th November.

Yes! It's that time of year again (or fast approaching) and this will be our third event. Let's hope it will be our biggest and best so far, although that's down to you lot. We'll be back in Coventry for this one, and Jeremy has already booked a great new venue. Entry forms will be included in the next issue of the magazine, so now's the time to start digging out some entries. Full details next month.

Slotties' Day Out

Mechanical Memories Museum

Brighton, 22nd September



Carters' Steam Fair

Part Two

Being the larger than life character that John Carter was, Carters' Steam Fair was often thought of, and indeed referred to as 'John Carter's Steam Fair'. Following his untimely death, some may have feared for the fair's future. But the fact that the fair has not only survived, but has positively thrived, is testament to the whole family's commitment, and that it had always been 'Carters' Steam Fair'.

For my latest visit to Carters' Steam Fair, Sharron and I drove to Battersea Park during their two week stay at this popular South London venue. As I parked the car, I suddenly realised that I hadn't visited Battersea Park since the early seventies, when my parents took my sisters and me to Battersea Fur Fair, which had originally been erected in the park for the Festival of Britain in 1951. Fond memories came flooding back, with crystal clear visions of Botton Brother's massive Dodgem track and Grays' equally enormous Brooklands Speedway track.....anyway, more of that another time.

Since my last visit to Carters' Steam Fair, which must be seven or eight years ago, two more adult rides have been acquired: The Victory Dive Bomber and Jungle Thriller Ark. The Dive Bomber has travelled with the fair since 2002, after undergoing extensive engineering work. These machines date back to the late 'forties, and in their day would have been considered white-knuckle rides. It should perhaps be referred to as a 'Double Dive Bomber' as these machines were originally built with just one arm, thus restricting the maximum number of riders to just eight. A number of showmen acquired additional machines and combined 'two into one', ending up with one machine with two arms; the two arms rotating in opposite directions. Unfortunately, on the day we visited Battersea, the sky was bright and sunny in places, and very dark and overcast in others. The Carters' had very carelessly positioned the Dive Bomber under the darkest bit of sky, and I would have needed to borrow the floodlights from Wembley Stadium in order to take any decent 'photos!

The Ark is the most recent addition to the fair, and is now in it's second season. It is a 42ft. diameter machine built by Orton, Sons and Spooner Ltd. in the early thirties, and closely resembles the early machines of this type built in Germany at that time. It is considerably smaller than the machines built in this country a few years later by Lakins, and a few massive machines built by Langwheels. Sadly, it is one of the last remaining Arks (travelling or static), most of which were converted to Waltzers in the seventies and eighties. Riding Carters' Ark at Battersea brought back fond memories of my younger years, when a ride or two on Robert Bailey's Jackson built Motor Cycle Speedway was the highlight of my visits to the fair.....happy days!

The Arcade

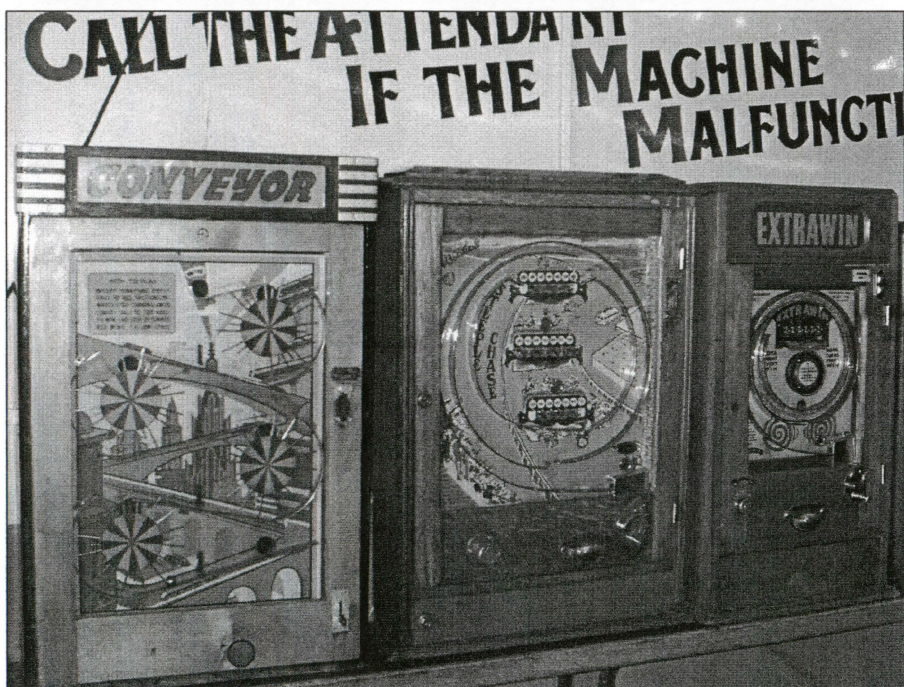
My trip to Battersea enabled me to see the new arcade for the first time, and I instantly thought that there were fewer machines. I soon realised that this is not the case; there's just more space because the arcade is much, much bigger. In fact, it is so big that I was unable to take a picture of the front 'head-on'. It's only a guess, but I reckon it must be 40ft. wide by 24ft. deep, which must make it one of the largest travelling arcades on our fairgrounds today, and certainly puts most modern arcades to shame!

The large number of wall machines seems to be much the same as before, many of which are duplicated (wouldn't it be nice to have an arcade so big, you could have two of everything), including: *Conveyor*; *Circle Skill*; *Payramid*; *Double Decker*.....most of us would give our right arm just to have one each of these! There is a really good selection of allwins, with most of the well known makers represented, including: Bryans; Wonders; Whales; Parker; Kraft etc., all being enthusiastically played on my visit.



Above: Carters' arcade at Battersea Park, with the Grand Prix just visible.

Opposite Page: A nice selection of allwins at the back of the arcade, and three very desirable wall machines toward the front: *Conveyor*; *Steeplechase* and *Extrawin*.



The line up of floor standing machines has changed since my last visit, and now includes three Ruffler & Walker race games: *Grand National*; *Grand Prix* and *Helicopter Race*. Although I didn't count them, there must have been half a dozen cranes, one of which required two old pennies to operate (presumably because it was filled with better sweets than the others)!

I was interested to find one of Arthur Bolland's *Road Safety* steer-a-ball machines, as I've never actually seen one of these. I had a couple of goes, but couldn't quite work out what I was supposed to do. So I had a go on one of the *Steer-a-balls* (yes, there are two) and had my penny returned on the first attempt. Moral: stick to what you know!



Ruffler & Walker Grand Prix; Arthur Bolland Road Safety steer-a-ball thingy and one of the Exhibit Supply cranes.

So, that's Carters' Steam Fair. On the back of one of the box trucks reads the following:

IF YOU KNOW OF A BETTER FAIR, GO TO IT!

Well, I certainly don't. But if any reader knows of a better fair, please let us all know!



I decided to have a go at printing this picture of the Victory Dive Bomber after all.

I've no idea what it will look like, as it was very overcast when I took the picture. I shall post this, and all the other pictures (in colour) on the pennymachines website.

Mystery Machine No. 1

Kitty's Bedtime

By Brian King

A couple of years ago I acquired my first working model, which came as part of a deal. Unfortunately, not knowing anything about working models, this machine is a complete mystery to me. When the machine is operating, Kitty rocks the cradle with her right arm as she nods her head from left to right. As she is rocking the cradle, the toy in the box to the right jumps up and down.

The model operates on old 1/- play, which I would suggest dates it to the 1970s. However, when I acquired the machine, I found inside a number of old 10p coins, including Irish and New Zealand coins of the same size. As there is no makers plate on it or any identification, I throw it open to you the membership to offer details etc. of this first mystery machine. I look forward to your replies via MMM.





Mystery Machine No. 2

Australian Discovery

By Brian King

Last July and August I travelled with my daughter to visit relatives in Queensland, Australia. Luckily for me, my cousin's father-in-law just happens to be the chairman of the South Coast Restoration Society, which are based in Queensland. They collect and restore anything from a full size traction engine to a mechanical apple peeler. Well, as luck would have it, on the first weekend after our arrival, it just happened to be the society's 25th annual Pioneer Rally, at their own showground at Pimpama, Queensland. As the showground and land surrounding are owned by the society, members are allowed to erect their own personal sheds in which to keep their collections of restored items and work on them in their workshops.

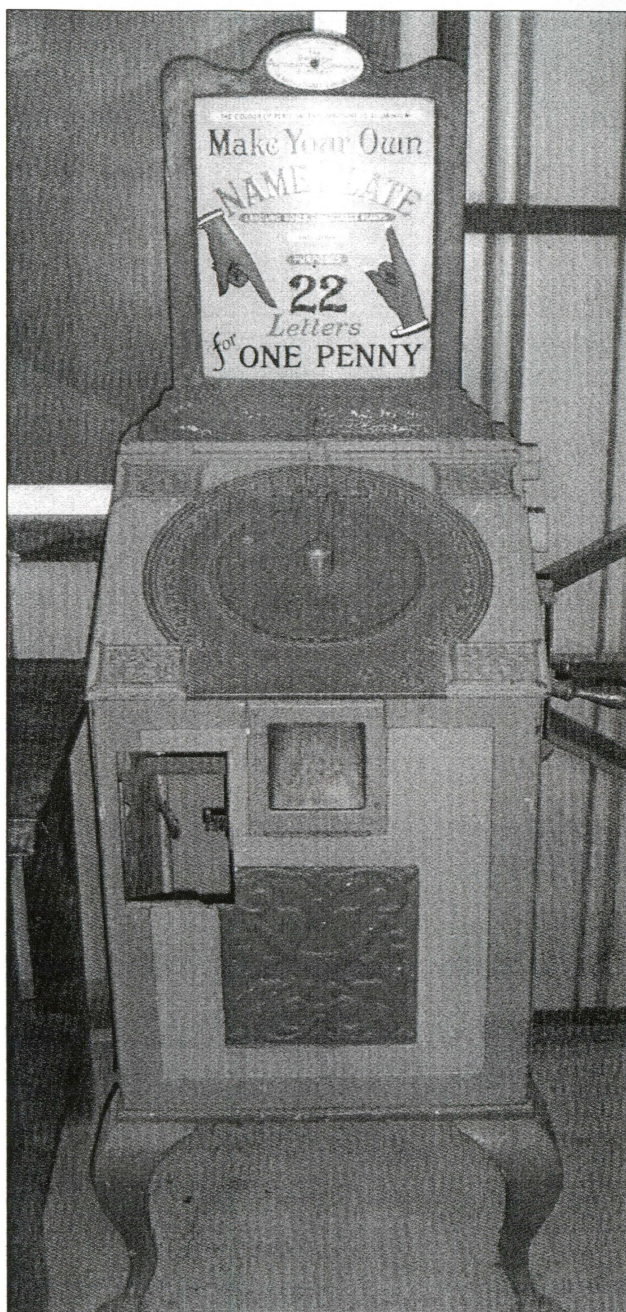
On rally day, all workshops were open to the public to view the treasures inside. It was whilst walking through one of these worksheds that my discovery was made. There at the side of a shed was an old penny machine. On careful inspection, it turned out to be a letter stamper or nameplate stamper, made by The British Automatic Company Ltd., 14 Appold Street, London EC. The logo suggests that it is ideal for labelling Roses; Trees; Plants and other purposes.

On return to Blighty, I sought to look up the manufacturer in Carters book, but there is no reference to the company at all. So it's over to you members. I'm assuming it's from the Edwardian era and could have used the old Australian penny, which was the same size as ours. Any additional information would be most welcome.

Editor's comment

For what it's worth, I doubt whether this is a British machine. It appears to be by the American Roovers Brothers, although I'm no authority on these machines. I suspect The British Automatic Co. Ltd (who ever they were) slapped their labels on all manner of imported and home-grown machines, as was common practice with many distributors and dealers.

But that's just my view. If anyone has any ideas on this antipidean treasure, Brian and I would like to hear from you ASAP so that I may be able to come up with some answers in the next issue.



“Not another one – Where’s this one going to go?”

By Barry Saunders

This is the familiar cry I am hearing with increasing frequency from Ruth as I pursue my interests. I’m getting quite good at it now – I have been known to buy several machines in one go!

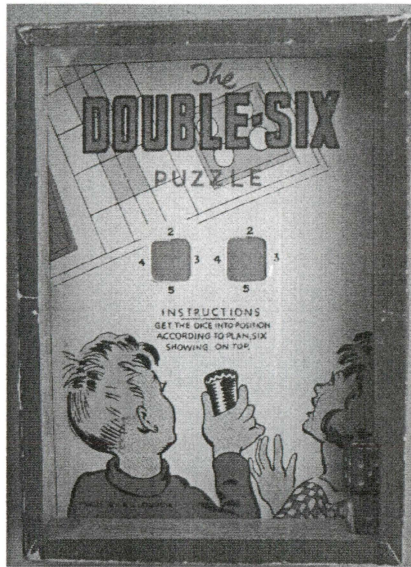
But not only machines... My motto is if it moves collect it - if it doesn’t still collect it. I’ve got just about everything, such as Railway items including model OO, O and 3 ½” live steam and, oh yes! I am even a minor shareholder in a real ex-British Railways locomotive. For those of you who know, it is a BR Standard Class 4, 2-6-0-built in the 1950’s. I have full sized signals including finials (the decorative items on top) lamps; carriage handles and lots more, particularly items from my local Railway Company - the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway.

And what about those wimps who store it in their garage? Not me! Most of it is in our house (not the real engine!) We have hardly any room to move around. If we get any more stuff (I mean choice collectable antiques) we will have to learn to sleep standing up as there will be no room for silly things like beds; Ruth is ever so pleased! Listen, if you are getting grief from the missus - just send her round here and she will quickly realise just how lucky she is after all! Seriously though, I thought this would be a nice opportunity to mention vintage puzzles made by R. Journet & Co. Ltd., London, between 1890’s and 1960’s. Most of them measure around 5”x 4” and the more common ones remain quite easy to find and do not cost a great deal of money. They are almost impossible to do and keep a simple soul like me amused for hours. In the latter years of their manufacture they must have had an innovative marketing team, as on the reverse of each puzzle reads:

“THE R.J. SERIES OF POPULAR PUZZLES”

“POPULAR PORTABLE PUZZLES PROVING POSITIVELY PERPLEXING AND PERPETUALLY PLEASING POSERS PRESENTING PERSISTENTLY PROVOKING PROBLEMS PROVIDING PROFUSE PLEASURE, AND PRODUCING A PALLIATIVE OR PLACID PANACEA TO PEOPLE POSSESSING A PROPENSITY FOR PERSISTANCE, PATIENCE, PERSPICACITY AND PAINSTAKING PROPENSITES.”

These fascinating games are an absolute pleasure to collect and own, and they don’t take up much room either! Ruth is extremely pleased.



How I started my Collection

By Graham Millard

Way back during the late fifties my dad bought an old car, so every Sunday it 'was law' that we went out in it. Summer time was usually to the coast. Now, living in Bedford it was a hell of a trek in those days and we had to be on the road by 6am. Hunstanton was the nearest but sometimes we'd venture to Clacton or Great Yarmouth but that was 120 miles away, although they did have a better selection of arcades there!

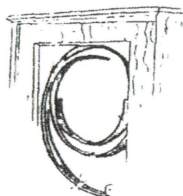
On one occasion we were about to head for home and my dad said he and I were going for a walk. I thought that was bloody strange, but off we went onto the beach and we walked towards the sea. As the tide was out and it was out for miles, he wouldn't tell me why we were heading towards some foreign shore until eventually we reached the sea and he pointed down towards the water, "Look at that" he said. "Look at what?" I said, "there's nothing there except the sea!" "Yeah! Exactly" he said.

He then told me that "Every week you go to the seaside and this week I was certain that you would actually see the sea!" That was the point I sort of made up my mind that some way or another I would one day have a machine of my own and I wouldn't have to go to the seaside to play it. I plagued my dad to buy me a Wonders that appeared in the local second-hand shop but to no avail. There were two and I thought that by not being greedy I might get one of them. (I didn't really want the other machine, as you never win on them). The fair arrived and, of course, the machines disappeared. They were sold to a showman for ten shillings each. The other was a Bryans Payramid!

I started buying the 'World's Fair', and years passed, got married, gave up the 'World's Fair' and although I never gave up the idea, other things always needed buying so nothing happened. Then, one day whilst passing a newsagent about thirty years later I saw a copy of the 'World' Fair' which I bought and it contained an advert for an auction at Knebworth, which is only down the road. So I had to go, and although I never made a purchase I did a lot of 'earwiggling', took all the prices and vowed to go to the next one.

The next auction saw me coming away with two Segas and a Mills and hoping and praying that they worked, luckily for me, they did! Whilst I was loading them into my mate's van, a bloke stuffed a copy of the 'Deal Directory' into my hand saying, "you look like the type that would be interested in joining this." My first meeting with Steve Hunt, and me thinking that you've got no chance of me joining mate because why would I want any more machines? How wrong can you be sometimes ???

So, that's the background of how I started my collection. I still have the three bandits and about another 20 machines as well. I'm ashamed to say that the one that I really enjoy playing is my Payramid, even though it cost me a bit more than 50 pence!!



ALLWIN TRACK

Grooved & chromed just like the original.

Inner with flat & nipple
17½" inside length
Middle 18" inside length
Outer 40" inside length

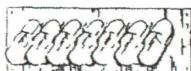
ALLWIN SPARES

From Stock

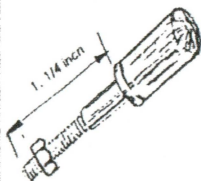
Nostalgic Machines Ltd.
P.O. Box 32, Wombourne,
South Staffs WV5 8YS
Tel / Fax 01902 897879



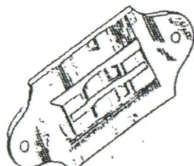
Win Tabs Red printer
on Silver foil sticky
backed 12 on a sheet



CHROMED 7 ball win
gallery. 6 x 1.9/16



CHROMED THUMB
STOP



COIN SLOT
to suit 2p but can
be filed bigger

PRICE LIST

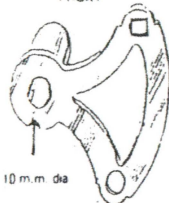
N01 Win Tabs (12 per
sheet) £15.25

N02 Ball Gallery £12.55

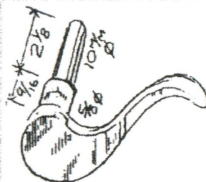
N03 Thumb Stop £6.25

N04 Coin Slot (2p)
£9.25

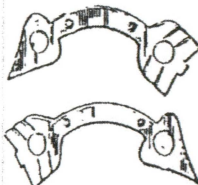
CHROMED TRIGGER
FRONT



10 m.m. dia



TRIGGER



CHROMED ARROWS
Reversible.

N05 Trigger Front £9.25

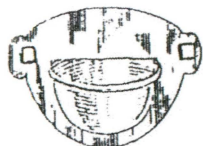
N06 Trigger £12.25

N07 Payout Arrow
£2.55

N08 Payout Bowl &
Surround £15.55

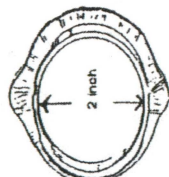
N09 Payout Knob
Shield £9.95

CHROMED PAYOUT BOWL

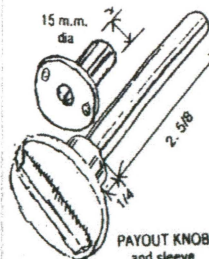


2.5 inch dia cup 2 x 0.25 inch fixing
squares at 3.75 inch centres.

CHROMED KNOB SHIELD



2 x tapped M5 fixing holes on
extended nipples 2.1/2 centres.

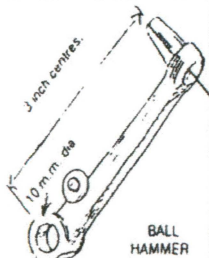


PAYOUT KNOB
and sleeve

N10 Payout Knob &
Sleeve £11.95

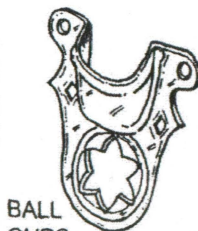
N11 Ball Hammer £4.95

N12 Ball Cups
1-5 £9.99each
6-10 £7.99each
11+ £5.99each



BALL
HAMMER

SPANDRELLS



BALL
CUPS

N13 Spandrells £14.99

N14 Allwin Track
inner £19.00
middle £19.00
outer £23.50
set of 3 £47.00

All prices include
VAT @ 17.5% and P&P.
Discount for quantity
orders - please ring.

Lineage ads. are free to subscribers and will run for two issues, unless you instruct me otherwise. Please ensure I have your ads. by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next month's issue. Remember to include your telephone number and the area where you live. Post or e-mail to the address on page 2

For Sale

AMI J 200 Jukebox, near mint condition.
With keys, on free play or 5 cents.
£4500

Pete 01507 462070

Wanted

Pennies Only label for an Oliver Whales allwin. Must have line around the edge.

Bill 01642 710834 (Middlesbrough)

For Sale

'Danny Deer Rocker' kiddies ride, with wooden horse. £100

Contact Jonathan at Watermouth Castle
01271 863879 (Devon)

For Sale

Brand new top flash for Oliver Whales Win a Nestles Milk Chocolate. £15

Brian 01347 811532 (York)

For Sale

Aristocrat 'War Eagle front' mechanical one-armed bandit, with keys. Working on 2p or 10p coin. £275

Ring or email for photos.

Tony 07974 460742 (Essex)
Vanessa.raye@tesco.net

Pinball Machines Bought and Sold
Dead or Alive

Call Gazza 07887 926601 (Essex)

Wanted

Coin entry (with the figure 1d) and coin cup with backplate for Wonders allwin.

Chris 07909 962186 (Berkshire)

Wanted

Ball Hammer for Oliver Whales Win a Gift allwin. Urgent!

Brian 01347 811532 (York)

Swap Wanted

I have an Oliver Whales Have a Go allwin on old penny play, in full working order and in very good condition. Would like to swap for any allwin with dice games, football or any other sporting artwork.

Bill 01642 710834 (Middlesbrough)

Wanted

Old pre 1930s games
I.E. Indoor, pub, board games etc.

Ivan 01273 401144

Wanted

Giant Wondermatics allwins

Chris 07909 962186 (Berkshire)

Wanted

Bollands Working Models
Top price paid, plus finder's fee

Les 07905 372227 (Essex)

SPARES AND COINS

For Sale

New old stock, Bryans square Yale locks, with two keys. £10 each, plus £2 p&p

Tony 07974 460742 (Essex)
or email vanessa.raye@tesco.net

For Sale

Lowe & Fletcher and Yale locks. Will fit most Bryans machines. £12 per lock.

Tele. 07816 152111
Email jn168@aol.com

For Sale

Bryans Clock Face and Instruction Cards. For either 6 or 12 win. Perfect copies. Laminated or paper. £12 inc. UK postage. Topflashes for the following O. Whales Allwins: Double Six; Have a Go; Easy Perm; Playball; Each Way. Perfect copies. Laminated. £12 inc. UK postage.

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